

Public Law 107-136
107th Congress

An Act

Jan. 24, 2002
[H.R. 3392]

To name the national cemetery in Saratoga, New York, as the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Gerald Brooks Hunt “Jerry” Solomon of Glens Falls, New York, served in the House of Representatives for 10 terms, from January 3, 1979, to January 3, 1999, and during that service gained a reputation for being outspoken and tenacious in presenting his views on a wide range of issues.

(2) Congressman Solomon was born in Okeechobee, Florida, and grew up there during the Great Depression before moving to New York in 1945.

(3) Congressman Solomon enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the onset of the Korean War and served in the Marine Corps for 8½ years on active and reserve duty.

(4) Before being elected to Congress in 1978, Congressman Solomon was a businessman in Glens Falls, New York.

(5) During his 20-year congressional career, Congressman Solomon served as the ranking Republican on the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, where he was recognized by the veterans community as one of its strongest advocates. Among his other accomplishments for veterans, Congressman Solomon spearheaded the effort to create the Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs and successfully led a 15-year drive to establish the Saratoga National Cemetery in Saratoga, New York, where he is now interred.

(6) Congressman Solomon was also recognized for his efforts to promote pride, patriotism, and volunteerism, and when the Supreme Court ruled that laws prohibiting the burning of the United States flag were unconstitutional, Congressman Solomon was given the assignment to pass a constitutional amendment to prohibit desecration of the flag. The Solomon Amendment passed overwhelmingly in the House, but failed by one vote in the Senate.

(7) As chairman of the Committee on Rules of the House of Representatives, Congressman Solomon revamped the rules under which the House operates, abolishing proxy voting, opening all meetings to the media and the public, and making Congress subject to the same laws that the American people live under.

(8) During his congressional career, Congressman Solomon was the recipient of dozens of major awards from many national veterans organizations, including the coveted “Iron Mike Award”, presented to him by the Marine Corps and Marine Corps League, and the Distinguished Citizen Award, presented to him by the National Congressional Medal of Honor Society for his legislative successes on behalf of the United States military and veterans issues.

SEC. 2. NAME OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY IN SARATOGA, NEW YORK.

(a) **NAME.**—The national cemetery located in Saratoga, New York, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery”. Any reference to such national cemetery in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the “Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery”.

(b) **MEMORIAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide for the placement in the national cemetery referred to in subsection (a) of a suitable memorial to honor the memory of Gerald B.H. Solomon and his service to the United States.

Approved January 24, 2002.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3392:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 147 (2001):

Dec. 4, considered and passed House.

Dec. 20, considered and passed Senate.